

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 FEA-02 COME-00 IGA-02

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

/164 W

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R 291206Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7288

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, US, SA

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF AMMAN 3061

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE AND CONSIDERABLE
DISADVANTAGE IN GOING BEYOND THE ADVICE GIVEN TO
ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR BY AMBASSADOR PICKERING CON-
CERNING ROMANIAN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH
SAUDI ARABIA END SUMMARY.

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO BEYOND THE KIND
OF ADVICE GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR LEVENTE BY AMBASSADOR
ICKERING (PARA 4 REFTEL).

2. LEVENTIE'S SAUDI COLLEAGUE IN BEIRUT GAVE HIM A
PRETTY GOOD CAPSULE DESCRIPTION OF THE SAUDI
ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALL "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. WE SEE
NO U.S. INTEREST SERVED HERE BY ERODING THIS
ATTITUDE, HOWEVER ANACHRONISTIC IT MAY SEEM. THIS HARD
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LINE ATTITUDE IS FREQUENTLY HELPFUL TO US IN OTHER

WAYS, E.G.,SUPPORT FOR OUR NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN, LINING UP WITH US ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE U.N., COOPERATION AGAINST RADICALS IN THE PENINSULA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD.

3. WE ARE NOT SURE TO WHAT EXTENT ROMANIAN "INDEPENDENCE" OF THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE WOULD BE ADVANCED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA. IN ANY CASE, THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE DISADVANTAGES.

4. FROM THE PURELY COMMERCIAL VIEWPOINT, WE SEE NO REASON TO INCREASE THE COMPETITION, ESPECIALLY SINCE ROMANIA IS COMPETENT IN ONE OF OUR BEST SALES AREAS--PETROLEUM AND RELATED INDUSTRIES.

5. FINALLY, AND ADMITTEDLY, WE COME CLOSE TO OVERKILL, THE KING AND OTHER SAUDI LEADERS WOULD NEITHER APPRECIATE NOR UNDERSTAND OUR ADVOCACY OF RELATIONS WITH A "SOCIALIST" COUNTRY.
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